Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), 169.09 lakh persons (47.15 per cent of the population) live below poverty line in Orissa in 1999-2000. The estimate of number of families living Below Poverty Line is not available.

In addition to the on-going programmes of the State Government and Central Schemes for poverty alleviation and employment generation, Special Central Assistance of Rs. 100 crore has been allocated under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana for the Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa.

Creation of job opportunities in U.P.

3072. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take effective measures to create job opportunities for educated unemployed youths through setting up of industries and small scale industries in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Union Government is implementing a scheme under the name "Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana" (PMRY) for creating self-employment opportunities through setting up of business and industries for educated youth in the country including Uttar Pradesh. The Office of the Development Commissioner for Small Scale Industries implements this scheme.

Slashing of KBK grant for Orissa

3073. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports captioned "Centre may slash KBK grant" in Orissa as reported in the Bhubaneswar New Indian Express dated the 16th September, 2002; and

(b) if so, the extent of such cut down and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of Rs.100 crore was allocated as Additional Central Assistance for the KBK districts of Orissa for the year 2001-02 and the same level has been maintained in the current financial year as cent per cent grant. At present, a sum of Rs.50 crore has been released to the State Government. Further release of funds will depend on factors such as progress of schemes, submission of progress reports, etc.

Population Below Poverty Line

3074. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

((a) the percentage of population lying below the poverty line according to the latest survey;

(b) the percentage of BPL population in the respective States, State-wise;

(c) the States where this precentage is on the decrease; and

(d) Government's policy to deal with this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Based on the data from the latest large sample survey of the 55th Round on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), 26.10 per cent of the population lie below poverty line in 1999-2000.

(b) The State-wise estimates of the percentage of poor population, derived from the latest large sample survey of the 55th Round on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The percentage of poor has declined from 1993-94 to 1999-2000 in all the States and Union Territories.

(d) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are: (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.